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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/030,076	01/10/2002	Osamu Nagai	P67506US0	1981

136 7590 02/20/2004
JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC
400 SEVENTH STREET N.W.
SUITE 600
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER

LE, HOA VAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1752

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

Response Due On Or Before

5 / 20 / 04
Month Day Year

DATE MAILED: 02/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/030,076

Applicant(s)

NAGAI ET AL.

Examiner

Hoa V. Le

Art Unit

1752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04 September 2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

This application is before the examiner for consideration on the merits.

I. The application has been carefully studied. There are six groups of the claims (1-12, and 16-20), (13), (14), (15), (21) and (22) with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention. They are not considered to be patentably different or distinct. Accordingly, no separate consideration and search is made. Should applicants show or urge otherwise in the next response to this Office action in order for it to be considered timely. A restriction will be made for the record as shown or urged.

II. An initial consideration and search has found about several dozens of references these disclose, teach and suggest the claimed invention at least on the broadest main invention claim 1. A set of from about 3 to 5 references will be next in line to be applied when each and all of the applied references in the applied set on the record are all overcome. The applied first set of references are those known and submitted by applicants.

III. The language "characterized in that...made of...said surface" (1) is and (2)(a) has been considered and searched as a product-by-process and (b) is given a little to no value since there is no evidence on the record that the claimed product-by-process is any better or unusual or unexpected result than any other making process. It is suggested, requested and required that applicants must test to provide an advantage or unusual or unexpected result for a patentability of a claim to overcome an applied reference.

Art Unit: 1752

IV. Applicants' prior art submission filed on 04 September 2002 has been considered to the extent of the English language being provided only.

V. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-22 with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ozora ('746 as submitted. Applicants are required to provide and submit an English language equivalent no later than a filing appeal brief. Otherwise, the appeal brief will not be considered and dismissed. It is now notified for the record).

Ozora discloses and teaches a resin being cured on a surface part. Please see the English language portion as provided. Since Ozora discloses, and teaches the main and essential embodiments of the invention, the claims are found to be anticipated by Ozora.

VI. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-22 with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krasij et al (6,660,422), Ozora ('746) and Mizobi et al (EP '575 as submitted being equivalent to US 5,686,032).

Art Unit: 1752

Mizobi et al disclose, teach and suggest an electrochemical power having a proton exchange membrane and gaskets and sealants. Please see the whole disclosure of each of the applied references, especially in Mizabi at figures and their descriptions. The language "characterized in that...made of...said surface" (1) is and (2)(a) has been considered and searched as a product-by-process and (b) is given a little to no value since there is no evidence on the record that the claimed product-by-process is any better or unusual or unexpected result than any other making process. It is suggested, requested and required that applicants must test to provide an advantage or unusual or unexpected result for a patentability of a claim to overcome an applied reference. Ozora is cited to show an additional type of a gasket at the English language portion as submitted. Mizobi et al is cite to show additional types of gaskets and process of obtaining the gaskets...,especially at the figures and their descriptions and co.1:15 to 2:6 and 43 to 57, 3:42 to 4:3, 12:23-43, 45:1-7. Since the above references are related to an electrochemical power and gaskets, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to cite or include the known gaskets and their function for the advantage as disclosed, taught and suggested in the secondary references.

VII. Claims 1-22 with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamiza et al ('220 as submitted. Applicants are required to provide and submit an English language equivalent no later than a filing appeal brief. Otherwise, the appeal brief will not be considered and dismissed. It is now notified for the record).

Kamiza et al disclose and teach a gasket or seal agent on a surface. Please see the

Art Unit: 1752

English language portion as provided. Since Kamiza et al disclose and teach the main and essential embodiments of the invention, the claims are found to be anticipated by Kamiza et al.

VIII. Claims 1-22 with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krasij et al (6,660,422), Kazami et al ('220) and Mizobi et al (EP '575 as submitted being equivalent to US 5,686,032).

Mizobi et al disclose, teach and suggest an electrochemical power having a proton exchange membrane and gaskets and sealants. Please see the whole disclosure of each of the applied references, especially in Mizabi at figures and their descriptions. The language "characterized in that...made of...said surface" (1) is and (2)(a) has been considered and searched as a product-by-process and (b) is given a little to no value since there is no evidence on the record that the claimed product-by-process is any better or unusual or unexpected result than any other making process. It is suggested, requested and required that applicants must test to provide an advantage or unusual or unexpected result for a patentability of a claim to overcome an applied reference. Kazami et al is cited to show an additional type of a gasket at the English language portion as submitted. Mizabi et al is cite to show additional types of gaskets and process of obtaining the gaskets...,especially at the figures and their descriptions and co.1:15 to 2:6 and 43 to 57, 3:42 to 4:3, 12:23-43, 45:1-7. Since the above references are related to an electrochemical power and gaskets, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to cite or include the known gaskets and their function for the advantage as disclosed, taught and suggested in the secondary references.

Art Unit: 1752

IX. Claims 1-22 with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida et al ('223 as submitted. Applicants are required to provide and submit an English language equivalent no later than a filing appeal brief. Otherwise, the appeal brief will not be considered and dismissed. It is now notified for the record).

Uchida et al disclose and teach a gasket on a surface. Please see the English language portion as provided. Since Uchida et al disclose and teach the main and essential embodiments of the invention, the claims are found to be anticipated by Uchida et al.

X. Claims 1-22 with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krasij et al (6,660,422), Uchida et al ('223) and Mizobi et al (EP '575 as submitted being equivalent to US 5,686,032).

Mizobi et al disclose, teach and suggest an electrochemical power having a proton exchange membrane and gaskets and sealants. Please see the whole disclosure of each of the applied references, especially in Mizabi at figures and their descriptions. The language "characterized in that...made of...said surface" (1) is and (2)(a) has been considered and searched as a product-by-process and (b) is given a little to no value since there is no evidence on the record that the claimed product-by-process is any better or unusual or unexpected result than any other making process. It is suggested, requested and required that applicants must test to provide an advantage or unusual or unexpected result for a patentability of a claim to overcome an applied reference. Uchida et al is cited to show an additional type of a gasket at the English language portion as submitted. Mizabi et al is cite to show additional types of gaskets and

Art Unit: 1752

process of obtaining the gaskets..., especially at the figures and their descriptions and co.1:15 to 2:6 and 43 to 57, 3:42 to 4:3, 12:23-43, 45:1-7. Since the above references are related to an electrochemical power and gaskets, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to cite or include the known gaskets and their function for the advantage as disclosed, taught and suggested in the secondary references.

XI. Claims 1-22 with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsuzaki et al ('987 as submitted. Applicants are required to provide and submit an English language equivalent no later than a filing appeal brief. Otherwise, the appeal brief will not be considered and dismissed. It is now notified for the record).

Matsuzaki et al disclose and teach a gasket or seal agent on a surface. Please see the English language portion as provided. Since Matsuzaki et al disclose and teach the main and essential embodiments of the invention, the claims are found to be anticipated by Matsuzaki et al.

XII. Claims 1-22 with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krasij et al (6,660,422), Matsuzaki et al ('987) and Mizobi et al (EP '575 as submitted being equivalent to US 5,686,032).

Mizobi et al disclose, teach and suggest an electrochemical power having a proton exchange membrane and gaskets and sealants. Please see the whole disclosure of each of the applied references, especially in Mizabi at figures and their descriptions. The language

Art Unit: 1752

“characterized in that...made of...said surface” (1) is and (2)(a) has been considered and searched as a product-by-process and (b) is given a little to no value since there is no evidence on the record that the claimed product-by-process is any better or unusual or unexpected result than any other making process. It is suggested, requested and required that applicants must test to provide an advantage or unusual or unexpected result for a patentability of a claim to overcome an applied reference. Matsuzaki et al is cited to show an additional type of a gasket at the English language portion as submitted. Mizabi et al is cite to show additional types of gaskets and process of obtaining the gaskets...,especially at the figures and their descriptions and co.1:15 to 2:6 and 43 to 57, 3:42 to 4:3, 12:23-43, 45:1-7. Since the above references are related to an electrochemical power and gaskets, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to cite or include the known gaskets and their function for the advantage as disclosed, taught and suggested in the secondary references.

XIII. Claims 1-22 with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mizobi et al (EP '575 as submitted being equivalent to US 5,686,032).

Mizabi et al disclose and teach a gasket on a surface and method for obtaining the gasket. Please see the whole disclosure of the applied references, especially at the figures and their descriptions and co.1:15 to 2:6 and 43 to 57, 3:42 to 4:3, 12:23-43, 45:1-7. Since Mizabi et al disclose and teach the main and essential embodiments of the invention, the claims are found to be anticipated by Mizabi et al.

Art Unit: 1752

XIV. Claims 1-22 with broadest independent claim 1 as the main invention are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krasij et al (6,660,422) and Mizobi et al (EP '575 as submitted being equivalent to US 5,686,032).

Mizobi et al disclose, teach and suggest an electrochemical power having a proton exchange membrane and gaskets and sealants. Please see the whole disclosure of each of the applied references, especially in Mizabi at figures and their descriptions. The language "characterized in that...made of...said surface" (1) is and (2)(a) has been considered and searched as a product-by-process and (b) is given a little to no value since there is no evidence on the record that the claimed product-by-process is any better or unusual or unexpected result than any other making process. It is suggested, requested and required that applicants must test to provide an advantage or unusual or unexpected result for a patentability of a claim to overcome an applied reference. Matsuzaki et al is cited to show an additional type of a gasket at the English language portion as submitted. Mizabi et al is cite to show additional types of gaskets and process of obtaining the gaskets...,especially at the figures and their descriptions and co.1:15 to 2:6 and 43 to 57, 3:42 to 4:3, 12:23-43, 45:1-7. Since the above references are related to an electrochemical power and gaskets, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to cite or include the known gaskets and their function for the advantage as disclosed, taught and suggested in the secondary references.

XV. The references to be in line for applied could be Kawamura (5,684,110), Sato et al (5,985,4800, Higuchi et al (6,051,097) and Wengrovius (6,057,405).

XVI. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoa V. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1332.

The examiner can normally be reached from 6:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Monday through Thursday and about the same time of most Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark F. Huff can be reached on 571-272-1385. The fax phone numbers of the examiner is 571- 273-1332. Since there is a newly electronic filing procedure for all initial communicating papers and all responses to an Office action, the examiner fax phone number is not for use to receive any fax in response to an Office action. Applicant is requested and required to send all initial communicating papers and all response to Office action to a central paper or fax receiving center for an electronic scanning procedure.

Applicants may file a paper by (1) fax with a central facsimile receiving number 703-872-9306,

(2) mail with a central mail receiving address:

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Application/Control Number: 10/030,076

Page 11

Art Unit: 1752

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hoa V. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1752

HVL
13 February 2004

HOA VAN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Hoa Van Le

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC
400 SEVENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004-2201

LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

ATTY. DOCKET NO.: P67506US0 GROUP ART UNIT: 1745
SERIAL NO.: 10/030076 FILING DATE: January 10, 2002
APPLICANT(S): NAGAI et al TODAY'S DATE: September 4, 2002

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES)	(NO)
le	AA	57-125746	08/05/82	Japan	—	—	Partial	Sufficient
le	AB	58-155670	09/16/83	Japan	—	—	Partial	Insufficient
le	AC	7-65847	03/10/95	Japan	—	—	Partial	Insufficient
le	AD	7-153480	06/16/95	Japan	—	—	Partial	Insufficient
le	AE	7-226220	08/22/95	Japan	—	—	Partial	Sufficient
le	AF	7-312223	11/28/95	Japan	—	—	Partial	Sufficient
le	AG	8-37012	02/06/96	Japan	—	—	Partial	Insufficient
le	AH	9-231987	09/05/97	Japan	—	—	Partial	Sufficient
le	AI	2000-77084	03/14/00	Japan	—	—	Partial	Sufficient
le	AJ	0671575A2	09/13/95	Europe	—	—	Sufficient	

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

AR _____
AS _____
AT _____

EXAMINER Hoa Van Le DATE CONSIDERED 12 February 2004

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant(s)

Notice of References CitedApplication/Control No.
10/030,076Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
NAGAI ET AL.Examiner
Hoa V. LeArt Unit
1752

Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
A	US-5,684,110	11-1997	Kawamura, Naoji	528/15
B	US-5,686,032	11-1997	Mizobe et al.	264/40.3
C	US-5,985,480	11-1999	Sato et al.	429/65
D	US-6,051,097	04-2000	Higuchi et al.	156/329
E	US-6,057,405	05-2000	Wengrovius et al.	525/477
F	US-6,660,422	12-2003	Krasij et al.	429/35
G	US-			
H	US-			
I	US-			
J	US-			
K	US-			
L	US-			
M	US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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S					
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X	

copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
es in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.